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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Albania

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1. Fortifications along the northern frontier of Albania, begun as early as 1949, are mostly of the field type, but include concrete anti-tank trenches in the valleys. The fortifications extend from the valley of the Vermosh River to Ivana, Koplik and Gjerm, with particular attention being paid to the Shkoder region (Bardha-Sheldi-Kosmac-Bushat-Prane). Peshkop and Kukes are also being fortified. Albanian reservists recently recalled to active duty in the Army are earmarked for these fortification projects, all of which are carried out by the Army. 50X1-HUM
2. As evidence of renewed Soviet interest in Albania (which lagged during the period following the Greek guerrilla defeat) the arrival in Albania of Soviet military and other experts, as well as increased Soviet attention to the Albanian Army and its armament. In this connection Soviets accompany Albanian officers who visit the areas being fortified.** 50X1-HUM
3. In line with such general security measures "recent" formation in Albania of a 10,000-man brigade, divided into companies of 200 men each. The brigade, which was formed to combat resistance activities, is allegedly composed of "volunteers" chiefly recruited from Albanian prisons.*** Members of the brigade wear civilian clothing, with a chevron on their left sleeves. 50X1-HUM
4. Under instruction from Moscow, a special training program has been initiated in the Albanian Army; the program, which is being directed by General Mehmet Shehu, and controlled by Soviet specialists, includes training in commando tactics, ambush, sabotage, destruction of communications and industrial objectives, as well as methods of assassination. this training is aimed at preparing Albanian military personnel in the art of guerrilla warfare, in the event that the Western Powers should occupy Albania. 50X1-HUM

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** [] Comment: [] northern inspection
trip of Major General Beqir Balluku, accompanied by three Soviet officers.

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*** [] Comment: [] it would appear doubtful that
Albanian prisons would be used as the source for brigade staffing, since
such persons could hardly be relied upon to suppress enemies of the State.

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